

Ashburnham Focus Committee Meeting, November 13, 2007

Present: Bob Fichtel, Chairman; Pat Frederick, Christina Sargent, Sallie Thoma, and Town Planner Eric Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM by Chairman Fichtel.

Eric Smith brought a laptop computer with which to show the Committee aerial views of land parcels in various parts of the town that might be considered for relocating the Highway Department.

Interim Town Administrator Paul Boushell and Land Use Coordinator Lori Capone were reported to have walked Kevin Lashua's land on Rte.12, and declared it unusable because of wetland, and because of possible hazardous waste having been dumped there in the past.

Eric Smith has applied for a 21E grant for land surveying expenses. He has been considering all flat land parcels in the town, within a two-to-three-mile radius of Town Center. The Committee looked again at specifications of the Garlick Family's real estate in the area fronted by Williams and Platts Roads. Town Engineer Donald Ouellette has expressed an interest in locating a sewage treatment plant there, if the soil has sufficient gravel content, and if the Town can acquire the property.

The Committee also looked at Mrs. Hartshorn's property fronting the Winchendon Road at the junction of the old Coughlin Road.

The Committee agreed that if the downtown historic district could be officially designated a Local (as opposed to national) Historic District or a Neighborhood Conservation District, the Town could better control any development there, to preserve the historic character of the neighborhood.

Chairman Fichtel made a motion: "To see if members of the Focus Committee are in favor of the proposed Article 7.2 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant on a Village Center District Moratorium". The motion was seconded by Sallie Thoma and passed by unanimous vote.

The Committee had a brief discussion of Rail/Trail plans.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 10 at 5:00 PM, in the Malcolm Stewart Room at the Stevens Memorial Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary